



Michigan Supreme Court

State Court Administrative Office
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Thomas P. Boyd
State Court Administrator

MEMORANDUM

DATE: November 23, 2022

TO: Judges
Court Administrators
County Clerks
Probate Registers

FROM: Thomas P. Boyd, State Court Administrator

SUBJECT: Holiday Gifts

At this time of the year, it may be difficult to deal with those who, with good intentions, try to give gifts or gratuities to judges and court staff. The Code of Judicial Conduct, Canon 4(E)(4), prohibits judges and their family members from receiving gifts, except in certain limited circumstances. Judges should require court staff under their direction to observe the same high standards to avoid any appearance that the official actions, decisions, or judgments of any court employee could be influenced by gifts. See Code of Judicial Conduct, Canon 3(B)(2). While the spirit motivating potential gifts to judges and court staff is appreciated, gifts are not appropriate.